Vasco Da Gama was a Portuguese navigator and explorer who was born in 1469. He was famous for discovering an ocean route from Portugal around Africa to East India that no one else thought was possible.

Vasco Da Gama was very educated. He had to learn many languages, physics, geometry, mathematics, and astronomy.

Da Gama's father Estavao was also an explorer who tried to sail the same route from Portugal to India, but died before he could complete the journey.

Vasco da Gama had over 150 crew members and 3 ships to make the trip from Portugal and around Africa to India. The ships names were the Sao Gabriel, the Sao Rafael and the Berrio. Da Gama used the stars, the sun and the horizon to tell the ships position at sea.

Vasco Da Gama stocked his ships with food like bread, beer, fish and salted meat. He also used navigational tools like almanacs, charts, compasses, cross-staffs, and traverse boards.

One of Vasco Da Gama’s ships had to be burned because many of the crew got scurvy and died. Scurvy is an illness from the lack of vitamin C.

